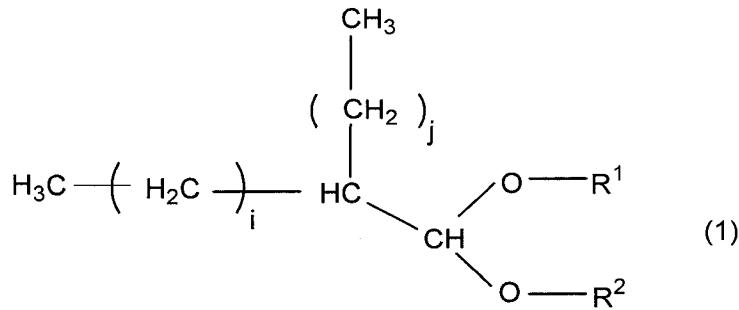


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

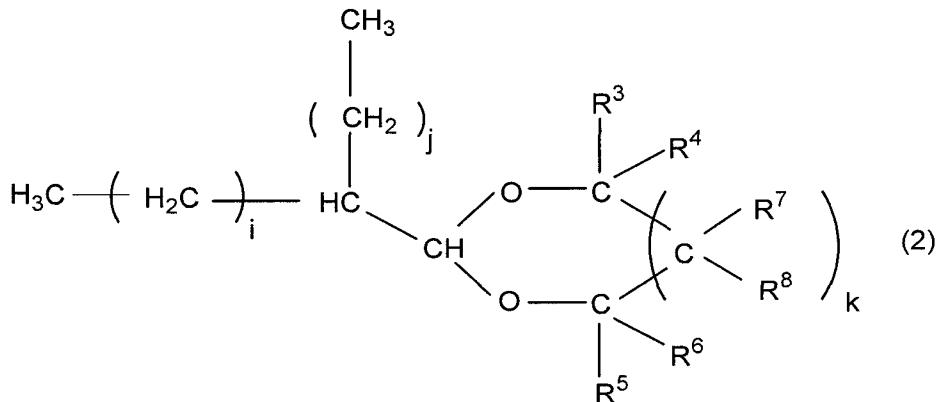
Claim 1 (Withdrawn): An alkylacetal compound having a structure represented by following general formula (1):



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently represent a hydrocarbon group, and  $i$  and  $j$  each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 8 to 98.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): An alkylacetal compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $i$  represents  $n$ , and  $j$  represents  $n+2$ ,  $n$  representing an integer in a range of 3 to 48.

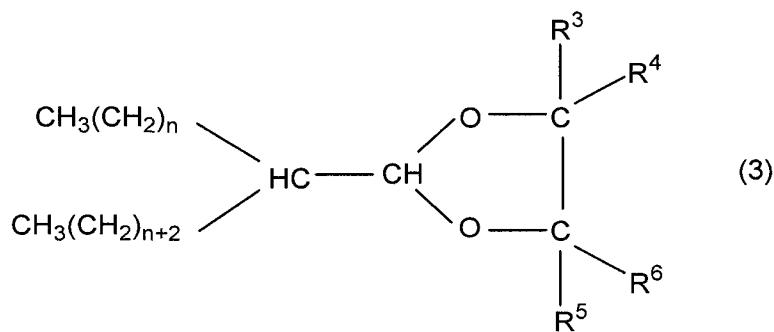
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An alkylacetal compound having a structure represented by following general formula (2):



wherein R<sup>3</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> each independently represent hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, k represents 0 or 1, and i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of ~~8 to 98~~ 10 to 70.

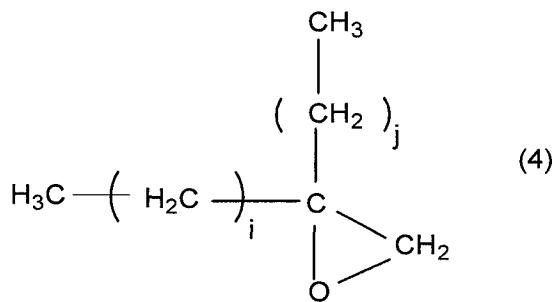
Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An alkylacetal compound according to Claim 3, wherein i represents n, and j represents n+2, n representing an integer in a range of ~~3 to 48~~ 7 to 15.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An alkylacetal compound according to Claim 4, which is represented by ~~following~~ general formula (3):



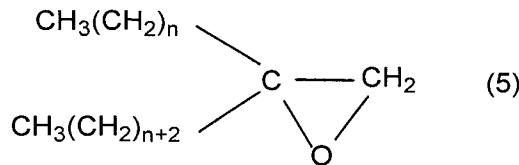
wherein R<sup>3</sup> to R<sup>6</sup> are as defined in general formula (2), and n represents an integer in a range of ~~3 to 48~~ 7 to 15.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound described in Claim 1 which comprises reacting an alcohol with an epoxide represented by following general formula (4):



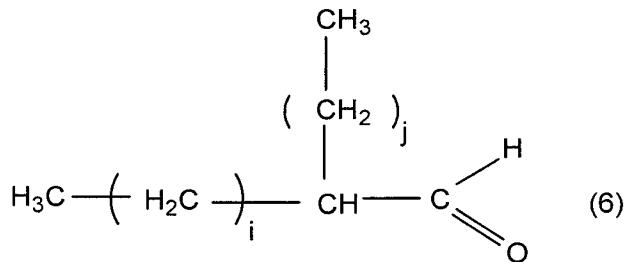
wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 8 to 98.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 6, wherein the epoxide is a compound represented by following general formula (5):



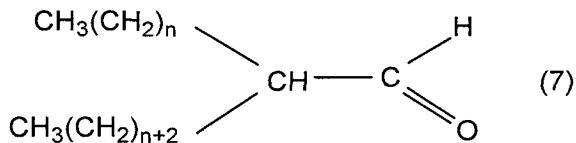
wherein n represents an integer in a range of 3 to 48.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound described in Claim 1 which comprises reacting an alcohol with an aldehyde represented by following general formula (6):



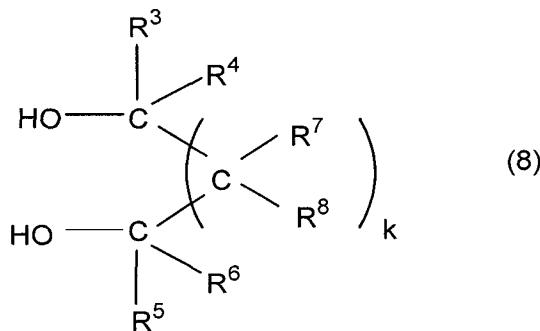
wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 8 to 98.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 8, wherein the aldehyde is a compound represented by following general formula (7):



wherein n represents an integer in a range of 3 to 48.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 3, wherein the alkylacetal compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (2) is produced using as the alcohol a glycol represented by ~~following~~ ~~general~~ formula (8):

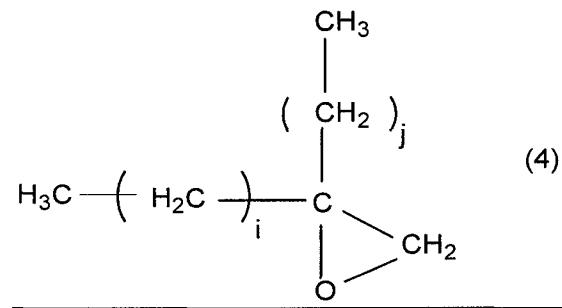


wherein R<sup>3</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> each independently represent hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, and k represents 0 or 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process according to Claim 10, wherein the glycol is a compound selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-trimethylene glycol, derivatives of 1,3-trimethylene glycol and 1,2-butanediol.

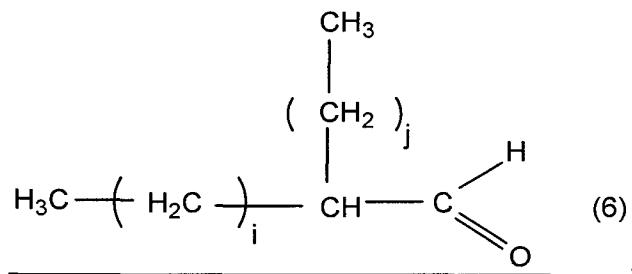
Claims 12-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 3, wherein the alkylacetal compound represented by formula (2) is produced by reacting an alcohol with an epoxide [[of]] represented by formula (4):



wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 10 to 70, as set forth in Claim 6.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound described in according to Claim 3, wherein the alkylacetal compound represented by formula (2) is produced by reacting an alcohol with an aldehyde [[of]] represented by formula 6:



wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 10 to 70, as set forth in Claim 8.

Claim 20 (New): The alkylacetal compound according to claim 3, wherein said compound is 2-(1-octenylundecyl)-1,3-dioxolane.